

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 PC-01 SY-05

OPR-02 AGR-05 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 A-01 /081 W
----- 040225

O R 231747Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 160

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMVASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2173

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, EAGR, HO

SUBJECT: CONTINUED TENSION IN THE RURAL SECTOR

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2147

1. THE TENSE SITUATION IN THE HONDURAN COUNTRYSIDE CONTINUES AND THE 48 HOURS GIVEN THE CAMPESINOS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO LEAVE OCCUPIED LANDS EXPIRES AT 1800 HOURS MAY 23. LATEST PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE (INA) AND THE NATIONAL CAMPESINO UNION(UNC) ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF INVADING CAMPESINOS. LEADERS OF THE UNC AND ITS PARENT CONFEDERATION, CGT, ARE NOT PUBLICALLY REVEALING THEIR PLANS AND HAVE POLITELY AVOIDED APPOINTMENTS WITH LABOFF AT THIS TIME.

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2. RADIO REPORTS INDICATE AN ESCALATING RHETORIC ON THE PART OF BOTH LAND OWNERS AND CAMPESINOS WITH BOTH SIDES THREATENING THE USE OF VIOLENCE.

3. THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL CONTINUES IN SESSION AND OFFICERS HAVE SHOWN A GREAT RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS CONTINGENCY PLANNING WITH DAO OFFICERS. THE ARMED FORCES HAVE BOTH AIRCRAFT AND TROOPS ON ALERT. AT 9:30 A.M. MAY 23, A FORCE OF 150 TROOPS WAS ASSEMBLING AT AIRPORT TO BE FLOWN TO THE TROUBLED AREA. BETWEEN 9:30 A.M. AND 10:00 A.M., FOUR C-47 AIRCRAFT, WITH A TOTAL TROOP CAPACITY OF ABOUT 80, DEPARTED TEGUCIGALPA AIRPORT AND FLEW NORTH.

4. IT IS APPARENT AT THIS POINT THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INA AND THE UNC ARE UNSUCCESSFUL THAT THE ARMY WILL RELUCTANTLY REMOVE THE CAMPESINOS FROM THEIR RECENTLY OCCUPIED LANDS.

5. THIS IS A JOINT EMBASSY/DAO MESSAGE.
SOWASH

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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